CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT INFORMATION FROM FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS CD NO. COUNTRY DATE OF INFORMATION 1953 **SUBJECT** Political - International congress Biographic DATE DIST. 4 NOV 1953 HOW **PUBLISHED** Daily newspapers WHERE NO. OF PAGES **PUBLISHED** Budapest, Paris DATE **PUBLISHED** 12 - 18 Sep 1953 SUPPLEMENT TO LANGUAGE Hungarian, French REPORT NO. THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THEMEINING OF TITLE IS. SECTIONS 78 IND 764, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR BEVI ATFON OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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CONGRESS OF WORLD FEDERATION OF SCIENTIFIC WORKERS AT BUDAFEST

Comment: The World Federation of Scientific Workers held its third congress at Budapest from 12 to 14 September 1953. No formal agenda appeared in the newspapers, and the Budapest press also failed to publish any resolutions which may have been adopted by the congress.

The following report presents a list of the names of scientists and officials who attended the congress, as reported in the press, and a resume of the proceedings of the congress.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources \vec{J}

Participants

Bulgaria: K. Bratanov, Dimitrov Prize winner.

Canada: D. H. Hall, geophysicist.

China: Chou Chin-lieh, economist; Chou Pei-yuan, delegate; and Tu Changwang, geologist, deputy secretary of the Association of Chinese Scientific Societies, member of the Executive Committee of the World Federation of Scientific Workers, and leader of the Chinese delegation.

 $\underline{\text{Denmark:}}$ M. A. Degerbol, zoologist, president of the Society for the Protection of Scientific Work.

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France: Ernest Aubel, biochemist; Louis Barrabe, geologist; Pierre Biquart, physicist; Edmond Grillot, physical chemist; Frederic Joliot-Curie, president of the World Federation of Scientific Workers; Yves Legrand, biophysicist, president of the Association des Travailleurs Scientifiques (Scientific Workers Association); and Georges Nigon, biologist.

<u>Creat Britain</u>: J. D. Bernal, atom physicist, vice-president of the World Peace Council; J. G. Crowther, writer, secretary-general of the World Federation of Scientific Workers; E. G. Edwards, physicist; Sir Robert Watson-Watt, radio engineer, member of the Royal Society; M. Goldsmith, writer; and Dr W. A. Wooster, physicist.

Hungary: Erzsebet Andics, First Deputy Minister of Education; Ferenc Biro, Deputy Minister of Metallurgy and the Machine Building Industry; Tibor Erdey-Gruz, Minister of Education; Academician Bela Fogarasi; Mihaly Freund, corresponding member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Kossuth Prize winner; Academician Andras Havas; Academician Lajos Janossy; Albert Konya, Deputy Minister of Education; Academician Lajos Ligeti; Prof Aladar Mod; Academician Emil Mosonyi; Academician Rezso Manninger; Gyorgy Osztrovszki, secretary-general of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences; Istvan Rusznyak, president of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences; Academician Imre Serenyi, Stalin Prize winner; Academician Imre Toro; Endre Valko, secretary-general of the MTESZ (Magyar Tudomanyos Egyesuletek Szovetsege, Federation of Hungarian Scientific Societies); and Academician Jozsef Varga.

India: Sir Sahib Singh Sokhey.

<u>Poland:</u> Prof Leopold Infeld, physicist, vice-president of the World Peace Council and honorary member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

USSR: Prof A. F. Alabishev, director of Leningrad Technical University; O. J. Aleksandrov, delegate of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions; Dr L. I. Kukharenko, economist, docent at Kiev State University; I. N. Lebedev, chairman of the All-Union Trade Union of Cultural Workers; D. D. Murav'yev, delegate of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions; Academician V. P. Nikitin, Stalin Prize winner; Academician A. I. Oparin, Stalin Prize winner; and S. Yu. Yunusov, vice-president of the Academy of Sciences Uzbek SSR.(1)

The following French associations were represented at the congress: Association des Travailleurs Scientifiques (Scientific Workers Association), Syndicat National de l'Enseignement Superieur et de la Recherche Scientifique (National Trade Union of Higher Education and Scientific Research), and Syndicat National des Travailleurs de la Recherche Atomique (National Trade Union of Atomic Research Workers).(2)

Proceedings of the Congress

The main speech was delivered by Frederic Joliot-Curie at the beginning of the first session of the congress. He quoted the following passage from the constitution of the World Federation of Scientific Workers: "The scientific workers cannot stand by idly while science is being put to harmful use, resulting in waste, unnecessary suffering, and the retardation of science itself. Science can serve the progress of mankind only in an era of peace and international cooperation. For this reason, the scientific workers have a greater responsibility than other citizens in safeguarding the firm ties between the nations."

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Joliot-Curie then spoke of the work of the federation in collecting data on the financial and working conditions of scientific workers, and of the federation's actions in cases where scientific workers were discriminated against or persecuted. He pointed out that the federation had adopted important resolutions for the outlawing of mass-murder weapons, and that the Chinese member society had submitted documentary evidence of biological warfare in Korea.

Joliot-Curie said that the members of the federation must resist the turbulence of passions, lies, and slander, and must keep cool heads as a safeguard against confusion and dissent in their ranks. He then mentioned the problem of underdeveloped countries which lack specialists and, therefore, cannot raise their standard of living. He pointed out that Professor Sokhey (India) has called attention to many such troublesome problems.

Joliot-Curie concluded that in face of the vast danger inhering in biological warfare and in the atomic and hydrogen bombs, it is imperative that the scientists demand negotiations for the outlawing of these weapons; and that, in addition, a fight must be waged against the armament race in general.

After Joliot-Curie's speech, the federation admitted the USSR, Poland, Hungary, and Pakistan to membership.

In the second session, the delegates of China and of the European People's Republics reported on the close ties which exist between science and the large-scale constructive activities in their respective countries. The delegates of the French and British scientific workers explained that the organizations affiliated with the federation in their countries are occupied with the problem of the pay reductions of scientific workers, and are endeavoring to put into effect in their countries the principles represented by the federation. They stated that these organizations are fighting for the peaceful utilization of scientific discoveries and for the intensification of scientific ties between the various countries.

In the third session, the international exchange of scientific publications and personal contact between the scientists of the various countries were discussed.(1) It was brought out that the federation has more than 136,000 members all over the world.(3)

SOURCES

- Budapest, Nepszava and Szabad Nep, 12 15 Sep 53
- 2. Paris, L'Humanite, 12 Sep 53
- .3. Ibid., 18 Sep 53

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